

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-11 are pending, of which claims 1, 9 and 10 are independent. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwaizono et al. (USP 6,714,882), Sato et al. (USP 6,008,626) and further in view of Terada et al. (USP 6,456,041). Claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwaizono, Sato and Terada, as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Yoshida et al. (USP Publication 2005/0106455). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner concedes that Iwazono and Sato fail to disclose the claimed notification portion. In response to the previously filed Amendment, the Examiner cites Terada asserting that Terada discloses a notification portion being powered by the power supply and continuously notifying a message of refreshment notice, which the battery is being forcibly discharged or going through a refreshment discharge. It appears that the Examiner considers that the refreshment discharge is the claimed forced discharge for avoiding abnormality. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that in Terada, the refreshment discharge is performed to learn the actual capacity of the battery (see, col. 1, lines 15-23 of Terada). In other words, the refreshment discharge is not performed to avoid abnormality of the battery. In the present subject matter, “abnormality” means the condition “when the temperature of the power supply detected by the temperature detection portion is not lower than the first temperature and the voltage of the power

supply detected by the voltage detection portion is not lower than the first voltage” as recited by claims 1, 9 and 10. It is clear that the refreshment charge of Terada is not necessary in such an “abnormal” condition. Accordingly, the message displayed on the display device (i.e., a display 119) of Terada does not indicate that abnormality is being avoided, as recited by claims 1, 9 and 10.

As such, it is clear that, at a minimum, Terada fails to disclose the above identified features of claims 1, 9 and 10 regarding the notification portion. Applicants also submit that Yoshida does not cure the deficiencies of Iwazono, Sato and Terada. Further, it would not have been obvious to add these features to any combination of the cited references. Accordingly, claims 1, 9 and 10 and all claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references. Thus, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

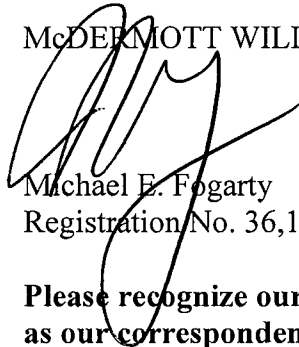
Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Michael E. Fogarty
Registration No. 36,139

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF:TS:MaM
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: July 21, 2009

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